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1. The food situation, bad everywhere in Rumania, is particularly bad in the cities. The state grocery stores, the only ones now existing, have nothing for sale at present except some onions, radishes, and salad. People with ration cards get meat once a month. There are endless queues before the shops and the state bakeries. Those who do not have ration cards cannot even be sure of getting their daily bread ration.
2. The entire harvest, this year, is to be given to the centers of the "Collecte". Agitators for this purpose find occasion to glorify the Soviet Union, and make the usual attacks on "imperialists of the capitalist world."
3. Among the peasants, however, there are some who block the endeavors of the "Collecte". These are denounced as Kulaks and, to tell the truth, their efforts do not amount to much. Other peasants, fearful of the Communist regime, are likely to denounce them and if arrested they are sentenced to various penalties.
4. The medical problem is no less serious. Shortage of medicine sometimes leads to very serious results. The Communist authorities now announce that Rumania is to make her own medicines, which were formerly imported, especially insulin and antibiotics. At present, however, the pharmacies are practically empty.
5. Toilet articles are also scarce and prices high, especially of course on the black market. This is true, in spite of the fact that the Communist newspapers announce the production of toilet articles rose a hundred percent in 1953, as compared with 1950.

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